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ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

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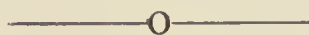
Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year

1958



ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Chairman of Council
Councillor W. H. Shipley

Vice-Chairman of Council
Councillor A. G. Finnimore

Public Health Committee

Chairman
Councillor F. C. Jenner

Members as at 31/12/58

Councillor A. N. Bisset	Councillor Sir John Le Rougetel,
„ A. G. Finnimore	K.C.M.G., M.C.
„ E. T. Hutley	„ W. H. Shipley
	„ G. R. Slone
	„ J. E. Watson

Representatives on the Joint Slaughterhouse Committee :
Councillors Hutley, Jenner, Shipley and Stickland

*Representatives on the Alton (No. 7)
District Health Sub-Committee :*
Councillors Mrs. C. Harkham and Col. J. P. Archer-Shee, M.C.

Staff

Medical Officer of Health : J. Coutts Milne, M.B., Ch.B.,
D.P.H., D.T.M.&H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

and Meat and Food Inspector : D. M. Ling, C.S.I.B., M.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk : M. G. Worthington

ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
HIGH STREET, ALTON.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1958.**

Introduction.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration the Annual Report for the year 1958, compiled according to the directions of the Minister of Health.

The vital statistical figures continue to be satisfactory. Both the birth and death rates are slightly lower than in the previous year. The infant mortality rate is well above the rate for 1957, but as mentioned in previous reports the relatively small figures involved subject these calculated rates to wide variation.

I am grateful to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their encouragement and help, to Mr. Godsell, Clerk of the Council, to Mr. Ling, Chief Public Health Inspector and Mr. Worthington for their ready assistance enabling me to carry out my duties.

I should like to record here the loss sustained by the Public Health Department in April, 1959 through the death of Councillor F. C. Jenner who had been Chairman of the Public Health Committee for 11 years ; an indication of the value the Council placed on his services to the town.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. COUTTS MILNE,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members
of Alton Urban District Council.

Part 1

General Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1 The population of the town as estimated by the Registrar General for mid 1958 is 8760. This shows an increase of 20 over the 1957 figure. The natural increase of births over deaths amounted to 61.

2 Birth and Death Rate.

During the year there were 154 live births representing a birth rate of 17.6 per 1000 of the population compared with an average of 15.7 per 1000 for the previous quinquennium. The comparability factor given by the Registrar General which when applied to the local rate gives a figure which can be compared with the rates for other areas is 1.01, giving an adjusted rate of 17.8 which compares with the rate of 16.4 (provisional) for England and Wales.

The 93 deaths represent a crude death rate of 10.6 per 1000 of the population compared with an average of 11.4 for the previous quinquennium. The comparability factor is 0.96 and this gives an adjusted rate of 10.2, which compares with that of 11.7 for England and Wales.

3 Infant Mortality Rate.

There were 6 deaths in children under one year, and 4 of these occurred during the first 4 weeks of life. The infant mortality rate is 39.0 per 1000 related births compared with an average of 17.3 for the previous quinquennium, and with a rate of 22.5 for England and Wales. The small numbers involved, however, render rate comparisons with other areas or earlier years misleading. No still births were recorded, nor any maternal deaths.

4 Causes of Death.

The commonest cause of death was diseases of the heart and blood vessels (36) followed by cancer of various types (15).

Only 1 death was due to cancer of the lungs. However, in the whole country deaths from lung cancer again increased, numbering 17030 for men and 2779 for women. The statement in my last year's report that the conclusion reached by the Medical Research Council that the major part of the great increase in deaths from lung cancer is caused by smoking tobacco, particularly heavy cigarette smoking, has not been invalidated, rather has it been supported by additional evidence in this and other countries. In other words evidence is piling up that cigarette smoking is not a harmless habit.

Coronary heart disease accounted for 15 deaths, 11 male and 4 female. In last year's report I commented on certain theories regarding the causation of this disease. Speculation still continues

and one hypothesis now advanced is that physical activity at work is a protection against coronary heart disease; that men in physically active jobs have less coronary disease during middle age, what disease they have is less severe and they develop it later than men in physically inactive jobs. Dr. Morris of the Medical Research Council who profounded this hypothesis based it on an postmen. Perhaps in this there lies a hint that those of us in sedentary occupations should try and take more exercise regularly but avoiding sudden and violent exertion.

5 Infectious Diseases.

(a) General.

In England, apart from an increase in scarlet fever and dysentery, the number of notifications of the main infectious diseases was less than in previous years, in fact the number of cases of diphtheria and whooping cough was the lowest ever recorded whilst the number of cases of poliomyelitis was the lowest recorded since the disease assumed epidemic proportions in 1947. In this town, although there were more cases of whooping cough and fewer of measles, the number of notifications recorded was much the same as in the previous year.

(b) Measles.

20 cases were notified, 12 of them in the first quarter of the year, all were under 10 years of age.

(c) Whooping Cough.

28 cases were reported, 22 in the first quarter of the year, 24 were under the age of 10 years and of these 5 were under one year of age. One death in a baby aged one month was recorded from whooping cough.

(d) Puerperal Pyrexia.

In July two cases of puerperal fever were notified from the Alton General Hospital, the causal organism being staphylococcus aureus. Swabbing of hospital staff and contacts showed that five had staphylococcus aureus in nasal swabs and seven had either haemolytic streptococci or staphylococci in their throat swabs. None of the staphylococci isolated were sensitive to penicillin.

(e) Salmonella Infection.

In October, whilst in hospital, a mother and baby were found to be suffering from salmonella derbi (one of the food poisoning organisms) infection, from which infection the baby later died. No organism of the salmonella group could be isolated from any of the home or hospital contacts.

(f) Poliomyelitis.

No case of poliomyelitis has been reported in the town for the past 3 years.

(g) Tuberculosis.

Three male cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year, as compared with 2 cases the previous year. No case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis was reported.

Age group		Pulmonary	
		M	F
45—64..	..	2	—
65 and over	..	1	—
Total	..	3	—

During May the mass miniature radiography unit visited the town and district when a total of 1649 men and 1656 women attended.

B.C.G. Vaccination.

In the latter part of the year the Principal School Medical Officer arranged to extend the B.C.G. vaccination scheme to the grammar and secondary schools in Alton and District. The results of tuberculin testing of the 13 year old children have shown nearly 80% are negative, showing they have no immunity against tuberculosis and so in need of protection by B.C.G. vaccine. The presence of so many T.B. negative children is an indication of the success of the campaign to produce T.B. free milk supplies in the county. It is very necessary that such unprotected children should be given B.C.G. which official investigation has shown confers a substantial measure of protection in adolescents. The children found to be T.B. positive have already resistance against T.B. and so do not need vaccination with B.C.G.

6 Prophylactic Immunisation Schemes.

These continue to play a major part in reducing the incidence of infectious diseases in this country. Three serious and disabling diseases have come or are coming under control in this way; viz. diphtheria, whooping cough and poliomyelitis, in fact with the former to many people the disease is now only a name but the time has not yet been reached when we can afford to do without active protection against the disease. Diphtheria is recognised as a classic example of a disease almost banished by immunisation. In 1957 there were only 37 corrected notifications and 6 deaths compared with an annual average of 55,000 cases in the period 1933-42. No case has occurred in this town for the past eleven years. This elimination of the disease however is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation and for this it is

considered necessary that not less than 75 per cent of babies must be protected before their first birthday. With this end in view in this town the parents of every child are contacted when the child is four months old and again at the age of 5 and 10 years and they are invited to have the children immunised either by their own doctor or at clinics. In 1958, 63 per cent of babies born in the town were immunised before their first birthday.

The number of children protected is shown in the following table:—

Ages	Diph. only		Diph.&W/cgh		W/cgh. only		Triple	
	Primary	Booster	Primary	Booster	Primary	Booster	Primary	Booster
Under 1	4	—	63	—	—	—	46	—
1—4	—	4	12	8	2	—	5	1
5—14	23	187	5	38	—	—	—	13
Total	27	191	80	46	2	—	51	14

To assess the extent to which children in the town have been protected the proportion of children of each age who have received at some time or another a course of injections against diphtheria as well as the ages at which the course was received must be taken into consideration. Therefore the immunisation state is shown in the following table by (a) age at inoculation and (b) age attained;

Number of children at 31/12/58 who had completed a course of immunisation at any time between

Age at 31.12.58. i.e. born in year	Under 1 1958	1—4 1954—57	5—9 1949—53	10—14 1944—48	Total under 15 years
Last complete course of inject- ions 1954-58	26	367	497	551	1441
1953 or earlier	—	—	159	230	389

Whooping Cough immunisation is well established as a worth while procedure and many parents readily recognise its value having themselves seen or heard of the serious effects of this disease in early life. The vaccine is most frequently given combined with diphtherid antigen or in the triple antigen which also protects against tetanus.

Poliomyelitis vaccination.

During the year vaccination of the eligible age groups continued to be carried out as and when vaccine was made available. Before the end of the year supplies became more plentiful so that the Ministry of Health were able to extend the offer of vaccine to those between the ages of 15 and 25 years and for giving a third injection to those who had already received two. Figures are not available

for the town to show what percentage of the eligible population has been vaccinated but parents who do accept are keen to have their children protected. For the County it is estimated that about 50 per cent of children under the age of 15 years have been given protection.

Vaccination has not been carried out long enough in this country to entirely demonstrate its value but some figures from countries where vaccination on a much larger scale has been done for a considerably longer period are of interest. In the U.S.A. in the first eleven months of 1957 there were 5747 cases compared with 14974 for the same period in 1956 and the five year average of 34321 cases in the first eleven months of the years 1952-56. A study of an outbreak in Chicago showed that amongst 125000 children who had not been vaccinated the paralytic attack rate was 358 per 100000 ; amongst the 125000 who had one inoculation it was 154, amongst the 600,000 who had two inoculations it was 14.2 and it was nil among the 300,000 children who had received the full course or three inoculations. Another report from Ontario, Canada describes their three year experience with the vaccine. In 1956, five cases of paralytic poliomyelitis occurred in 840,000 vaccinated school children compared with 71 cases in 960,000 unvaccinated children whilst in 1957 there were 17 cases in 1,800,000 vaccinated children and 21 in 300,000 unvaccinated.

In this country from 1956 to July 1958, 35 cases of poliomyelitis were reported as developing within 30 days of inoculation - all being children except two ; whilst in the same period six million children had been given the two injections. With such a large number it is inevitable that some of the children would have been incubating the disease when the inoculation was given. The prominence given by the national press to reports of deaths following polio vaccination undoubtedly creates anxiety in parents. Post hoc ergo propter hoc is the unavoidable deduction and logic can hardly be expected to have any bearing in such an emotionally charged subject as poliomyelitis. One case which demonstrated the difficulty of diagnosis was that of a school child aged 12 years who developed fever and symptoms suggestive of poliomyelitis a few days after receiving her second inoculation but investigation in hospital proved the illness not to be poliomyelitis ; adenovirus type 7 being isolated from the faeces.

7 Vaccination.

The vaccination figures for 1958 show an improvement over those for the previous year, but still fall short of what they should be. The figures are shown in the following table:—

Age at which vaccinated	Primary Vaccinations	Revaccinations
Under 1 year	8	—
1—4 years	10	3
5—14 years	11	12
15 years and over	3	26
Total	107	41

83 Babies under 12 months of age were vaccinated and the number of live births were 154 so that the equivalent of 54% of the children born were vaccinated. This figure can be compared with that of 68.8% for the County of Hampshire, and of 43% for England and Wales for the year 1957. The acceptance rate for infant vaccination varies greatly in different parts of the country, from 15.3% in Rutland, 73.9% in East Sussex and 82.4% in Canterbury. The position in regard to the desirability of vaccination against smallpox is well put in the Ministry of Health Report for 1957 and I should like to quote the relevant paragraph. "Smallpox is no longer endemic in Europe and the chance of the individual stay-at-home Englishman ever encountering it may be remote, but not everyone remains at home and vaccination is often a pre-requisite for travel or for entry into many countries, as well as an essential protection in those areas in which smallpox is endemic. It is a desideratum of certain types of employment within this country and obligatory for service with the Armed Forces. So the probability is that for one reason or another a substantial number of residents in this country will find it desirable to be vaccinated on some occasion during their lives. It is believed that the risks attending primary vaccination are less in infancy than at any other age, and since many persons will need to be vaccinated at some time it is highly desirable that this should be done in infancy, if only as an insurance against possible untoward effects of vaccination later in life."

8 Prevention of Accidents.

Is a subject of much greater importance than is generally appreciated and the Government's action during the year to help reduce accidents in the home and on the farm is to be welcomed.

(a) Accidents in the Home.

In February 1958 the Ministry of Health issued a circular to local authorities drawing attention to the large number of accidents

in the home and to ways in which co-ordinated local action could contribute to their reduction, at the same time hospital authorities were asked to co-operate by supplying statistical information to Medical Officers of Health about the incidence of serious home accidents.

The Secretary of Alton General Hospital kindly supplied me with information regarding patients from the town and surrounding district who attended the casualty department as the result of accidents in the home. The following table shows the figures for the year, classified by age, sex and type of accident:—

HOME ACCIDENTS—January to December, 1958

Approx % of population at age group	Age	Cuts		Burns & Scalds		Falls		Miscell- aneous		Total
		m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	
8%	0-4	4	5	9	5	7	10	7	9	56
15%	5-14	8	4	4	3	2	6	11	9	47
66%	15-64	10	29	9	8	2	20	18	22	118
11%	65 +	—	—	—	1	2	4	1	8	16
Total		22	38	22	17	13	40	37	48	237

More than 6,000 persons die each year in England and Wales as a result of home accidents, and 700 of such fatalities are due to burns and scalds. It is impossible to state the number of non-fatal accidents in the home but it has been estimated that every year at least 50,000 people require hospital treatment for burns and scalds caused in the home. Children under five and old people make up the great majority of victims.

In an effort to help reduce the number of home accidents the Government in November sponsored a national publicity campaign on guarding fires under the slogan of "Guard that Fire". In addition to publicity through posters, local effort was concentrated on the giving of talks to various women's organisations.

The public need to be kept aware of dangers in the home. There are four main causes of fatal home accidents - falls, poisoning, burns and scalds and suffocation. Falls account for nearly two thirds of fatal home accidents and three quarters of them affect people aged 75 years and over. Unsatisfactory design of houses, uneven floors, an odd step in passages, lack of a stair rail, failing vision are all contributory factors. Poisoning mostly affects young children, and medicines, tablets, liniments and household cleaning agents should be kept in locked cupboards out of reach of children. Burns and scalds in the home account for some 700 deaths every year in England and Wales. Half of these deaths are caused by clothing coming into contact with unguarded fires, and undoubtedly the most effective way to reduce such accidents is by use of a

properly designed and fixed fireguard. Danger can also be reduced by the use of safer garments, particularly for women and children. Almost, all light weight fabrics in common use are flammable cotton garments are more flammable than natural silk. Nylon and terylene are relatively safe, as can be fabrics treated with a flame resistant finish. Research continues to be carried out in the manufacture of non-flammable wearing material, and also for making cotton and other combustible material flame resistant. Suffocation is one of the most common causes of death by accident in children under one year of age, due either to ingestion or inhalation of food, or mechanical suffocation in bed or cot.

(b) Accidents on the Farm.

People in a market town like Alton are always interested in anything affecting the surrounding district, and so I should like to mention the new Agricultural (avoidance of accidents to children) Regulations which came into force on 1st July, 1958. The restrictions in these Regulations concern vehicles and machinery used in agriculture on which young children could cause damage to themselves and to other people. They apply to children under the age of 13.

(c) Motor Vehicle Accidents.

Of equal importance as accidents in the home are motor vehicle accidents, and these account for nearly 5,000 deaths a year in England and Wales, as many as are caused by respiratory tuberculosis and twenty fold the number of deaths from poliomyelitis. These accidental deaths do not have the news appeal of say deaths from poliomyelitis and in fact we have become accustomed to accept them as almost inevitable. Various organisations are concerned with road safety. The Road Research Laboratories study the subject from the aspect of road design and road engineering as well as the aspect of safety equipment, e.g. crash helmets, car design, lighting, etc. Accidents can result from lack of maintenance (as well as faulty design) and the Government's proposed scheme of inspection of cars over a certain age should help to reduce the number of accidents. Such a scheme has been in operation in Vancouver, Canada for some 20 years where all cars are regularly tested every 6 months. In towns Road Safety Committees perform an invaluable function studying the question of prevention of accidents, and keeping the public informed and interested in road safety matters. This town is to be congratulated in having an active committee of this nature.

9 National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action was required under section 47 of the Act regarding the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

10 PROVISIONS OF GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Devolution of Health Functions.

On the 1st April, 1953, there came into operation a scheme of devolution of Health functions to existing District Health Sub-Committees. In this area, the No. 7 (Alton District Health Sub-Committee comprises the areas of the Alton Rural District Council and Urban District Council, to which sub-committee both Councils nominate members. Among the resolutions made were—

“In order to make the fullest possible use of local knowledge and to widen interest there be devolved upon the District Health Sub-Committee as far as possible responsibility for the supervision of the Health Services in the area ; in particular services operating under Section 22 (Care of Mothers and Young Children), Section 24 (Health Visiting, Section 26 (Vaccination) and Section 28 (Prevention of illness, care and aftercare, so far as that section does not relate to tuberculosis) of the National Health Service Act, 1946, as amended, provided that those functions are exercised in such a way as to conform with the existing scheme”.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Ambulance Service is conducted by the County Council who supply monthly details of journeys to the Public Health Committee. The ambulances for the area are stationed at Alton.

Applications for the use of ambulances are made to—

The Aldershot Ambulance Station
(Telephone : Aldershot 2244)

Child Welfare.

A Child Welfare Clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Assembly Rooms, Alton. This centre is for the attendance of mothers and babies, and children under five. Activities at the clinic, at which a doctor and nurse attend, include advice on feeding and child management, immunisation, weighing and the distribution of welfare foods and certain Medicaments.

Consequent upon the closure of the Ministry of Food office, National Welfare Food Distribution Centres were established as follows—

	Centre	Times of opening
Alton	W.V.S. Office, 25 High Street	Tuesday & Friday 10-12 & 2-4
	Child Welfare Centre, Assembly Rooms	Tuesday 2-4
Holybourne	Taylor's Stores	Shop hours

Health Visiting.

The Health Visitor for Alton is Mrs. J. E. Morrow, 13 White-down, Alton.

Home Help Service.

A scheme of domestic help is available. The helpers are experienced women carefully chosen for their suitability for the work. They will run the home carefully, their job being to take over the housewife's work.

Home Helps are available for the following types of cases—when the housewife is sick or has to have an operation ; when a new baby is expected : when several members of a household are ill at one time ; and to give help to the elderly and infirm.

Application for a Home Help, accompanied by a medical certificate, should be made to the District Organiser. The charge depends on the hours worked and the income of the family after certain allowances have been made.

Division VI includes the Urban District of Alton and the Divisional Organiser now has her office at the Town Hall, Petersfield (Telephone: Petersfield 771/773), to whom application should be made for a Home Help.

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological examinations of clinical matter (sputum, swabs, etc.) and water, milk and foodstuffs are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester.

Chemical analyses of water, sewage, milk and other samples are carried out by arrangement with the Public Analyst, Southampton.

Thanks are expressed to the Director of Public Health Laboratory Service and the Public Analyst, Southampton, for their ready advice and assistance granted during the year.

Midwifery and Home Nursing.

These services are administered as follows—

DISTRICT SERVED	NURSE	SERVICE GIVEN
Alton	Mrs. M. A. Staples, S.R.N., S.C.M., GAS/AIR, Chawton, Alton	Midwifery and general Nursing

QUALIFICATIONS: S.R.N. State Registered Nurse; S.C.M. State Certified Midwife ; Gas/Air, Gas and Air Analgesia Certificate.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

A clinic is held every Thursday at 2 p.m. at Alton General Hospital.

The Medical Officers-attending the Alton Clinics at the end of the year—

1st Thursday

Dr. W. S. Larcombe and
Dr. P. Shortt (at 2.30)

2nd Thursday

Dr. T. C. Wilson

3rd Thursday

Dr. H. E. Larcombe

4th Thursday

Mr. A. F. Goode

School Health Services.

Clinics are held as follows—

Orthopaedic	... Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital, Alton
Ear, nose and throat	Alton General Hospital
Dental	At Schools
Ophthalmic and orthoptic	Alton General Hospital
Child guidance	Health Centre, Winchester
Speech Therapy	Alton General Hospital

Tuberculosis.

Clinics are held at Aldershot, Basingstoke and Winchester, whilst sanatoria are available at Bishopstoke, Chandler's Ford, Liphook and Alton (Morland Hall [The Henry Gauvain Hospital] and Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital).

Venereal Diseases.

Clinics are held at Aldershot and Winchester.

Area Welfare Officer.

The Area Welfare Officer is Mr. C. Hemsley, whose office is at Manor Park House, Aldershot (Telephone : Aldershot 2341). His assistant is Mr. P. H. Dean, County Council Health Centre, Bramblys Grange, Basingstoke (Telephone : Basingstoke 934).

Water Supply, Sewerage, Sewage Disposal and Public Cleansing.

I am indebted to the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, (Mr. F. T. Cornhill, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H.) for the following report—

Water Supply.

The water abstracted from the well at Windmill Hill continued to be of a high standard of purity. Regular samples were taken and submitted for both bacteriological and chemical analyses, with good results. The average daily consumption of water during 1958 was 490,530 gallons, an increase on the previous year.

New mains were laid at Neatham to serve properties in the Rural District, and on a new housing estate off Basingstoke Road.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The quantity of sewage dealt with at the Sewage Disposal Works amounted to 265,605,000 gallons. The works continue to function satisfactorily, and the effluent is regularly inspected, and samples taken, by the Thames Conservancy Inspector.

An old leaking sewer in Paper Mill Lane was relaid, and sewers constructed on a new housing estate off Basingstoke Road.

Public Cleansing.

House and trade refuse has been collected weekly. A new refuse collecting vehicle was put into service during the year. Refuse was disposed of at the Controlled Tip in Anstey Mill Lane, where it was regularly covered with soil, and rodent and fly control measures taken.

Street sweeping and gully cleansing was carried out as in previous years.

Part II
(Medical Statistics)

Table 1—General Statistics.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	4085
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£108,931
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£454
Population	...	...	...	...	8760
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	2823

Table 2—Live Births.

			Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	70	71	141
Illegitimate	...	..	9	4	13
			—	—	—
		Total	79	75	154
Live birth rate per 1000 of estimated population					... 17.6
Live birth rate per 1000 estimated population,					
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	16.4

Table 3—Still Births.

			Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	0	0	0
Illegitimate	...	...	0	0	0
		Total	0	0	0
Still birth rate per 1000 live births					... nil
Total live and still life births					... 154

Table 4—Deaths (from all causes).

	Male	Female	Total	
	49	44	93	
Death rate per 1000 estimated population				... 10.6
Death rate per 1000 estimated population, England				
and Wales	...	...	...	... 11.7

Table 5—Infant Mortality (details of infants under one year of age)

			Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	5	1	6
Illegitimate	...	...	0	0	0
			—	—	—
	Total		5	1	6
			—	—	—
Infant mortality per 1000 live births					39.0
Infant mortality per 1000 live births, England & Wales					22.5

Table 6—Neo-Natal Mortality.

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	3	1	4
Maternal deaths including abortions	...	...	...
			nil

Causes of Death.

	Diseases	Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	0	1
2	Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3	Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
4	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	1	0	1
6	Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
7	Acute poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8	Measles	0	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	1	0	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	1	0	1
11	„ „ lung and bronchus ..	1	0	1
12	„ „ breast	0	1	1
13	„ „ uterus	0	0	0
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	7	11
15	Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	1	0	1
16	Diabetes	0	2	2
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	8	6	14
18	Coronary disease, angina	11	4	15
19	Hypertension with heart disease ..	3	3	6
20	Other heart diseases	5	7	12
21	Other circulatory diseases	1	2	3
22	Influenza	1	0	1
23	Pneumonia	0	2	2
24	Bronchitis	1	1	2
25	Other diseases of respiratory system ..	1	1	2
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	1	1	2
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	0	1	1
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	2	3
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	0	0	0
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ..	0	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	0	0	0
32	Other defined and ill-defined causes ..	6	3	9
33	Motor vehicle accidents	0	1	1
34	All other accidents	0	0	0
35	Suicide	0	0	0
36	Homicide and operations of war ..	0	0	0
	All causes	49	44	93

Table 8—Deaths according to ages.

Age group	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 ..	5	1	6
1— 9 ..	0	0	0
10—19 ..	0	0	0
20—29 ..	0	2	2
30—39 ..	1	0	1
40—49 ..	1	1	2
50—59 ..	2	5	7
60—69 ..	8	5	13
70—79 ..	25	16	41
80—89 ..	7	10	17
90—99 ..	0	4	4
	49	44	93

Table 9—Number of Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the last 4 years

Disease		1955	1956	1957	1958
Scarlet Fever ..	..	14	6	2	0
Whooping Cough ..	..	30	3	8	28
Measles .. ..	..	109	11	48	20
Acute Pneumonia ..	..	12	9	7	13
Food Poisoning ..	..	1	0	1	0
Dysentery ..	..	1	0	1	0
Erysipelas ..	..	1	1	2	2
Totals .. ..	..	168	30	69	63

Table 10—Tuberculosis (details of new cases for the past 4 years)

Pulmonary	{ Male	3	5	1	3
	{ Female	4	2	1	0
Non-Pulmonary	{ Male	0	0	0	0
	{ Female	0	1	0	0
		7	8	2	3

ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector for the year ended 31st December, 1958

The abolition of slums received serious consideration throughout the whole of the country during 1958, and the Minister of Housing and Local Government has announced that the target at which the Government have been aiming, that of moving people from slums in Great Britain at the rate of 200,000 a year was achieved in 1958, this represents the demolition or closure of some 68,800 houses. The aim of the five year programme which is due to be completed in 1960, was the demolition of some 375,000 houses, equivalent to an average rate of 75,000 per annum.

Slum clearance in Alton has also progressed during the year, but only by the use of casual vacancies and timely exchanges of new aged persons flats. When application was made to the Minister to build 112 houses on the Anstey Manor Estate only 10 were allocated. To commence an estate of the size planned with only 10 houses would have been most uneconomic and consequently an alternative site had to be found. As a result of further negotiations however the allocation was increased from 10 to 20 houses, and these are now being erected at Edward Road. A further 77 dwellings were later allocated by the Ministry and a commencement of the Manor Estate has been made.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat.

Both slaughterhouses at Kent Lane and Amery Street continue to operate under Messrs. William Rothwell Ltd., but the use of the former premises has been very infrequent during the year.

The following tables set out the number of animals killed and inspected, and the organs and carcasses condemned. The general standard of food animals admitted to the slaughterhouse is very good, but at the time the neighbouring counties were becoming Attested Areas a number of cattle affected with tuberculosis were brought in for slaughter and consequently the condemnations for this disease remains high for 1958. This year lambs from North Devon were the cause for the large number of lambs livers condemned for liver fluke, undoubtedly the low lying marshy grazing lands are to blame.

The total weight of meat and offal condemned as unfit for human consumption amounted to 23 tons 17cwts.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	875	1340	1004	815	5967
Number Inspected ..	875	1340	1004	815	5967
All diseases except T.B. and cysticerci. Whole car- cases condemned	1	39	13	10	42
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	60	185	18	73	227
Percentage of the number inspected infected with disease other than T.B. and cysticerci	6.96	16.70	3.08	10.18	4.51
<u>Tuberculosis only :</u> Whole carcasses condemned	—	22	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	4	69	—	—	76
Percentage of the number inspected infected with T.B.	0.45	6.80	—	—	1.20
<u>Cysticercosis</u> Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	4	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..	—	3	—	—	—
Generalized and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Return of Diseases for which whole Carcases were condemned

Disease	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Abscess	—	—	—	—	3	3
Bruising and Mutilation ..	—	1	—	6	3	10
Emaciation	—	28	1	—	—	29
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	4	4
Fever	—	1	—	—	6	7
Immaturity	—	—	2	—	—	2
Joint Ill	—	—	8	—	—	8
Metritis	—	1	—	1	—	2
Moribund condition ..	—	1	—	1	6	8
Oedema	—	2	1	2	9	14
Pyaemia	—	—	1	—	—	1
Septicaemia	1	5	—	—	9	15
Tuberculosis	—	22	—	—	1	23
Uraemia	—	—	—	—	2	2
	1	61	13	10	43	128

Return of Diseases for which organs and part Carcasses were condemned

Disease	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Head :						
Cysticercus bovis	—	4	—	—	—	4
Tuberculosis	2	26	—	—	76	104
Actinomycosis	—	1	—	—	—	1
Abscess	1	—	—	—	2	3
Hearts :						
Pericarditis	—	1	7	—	35	43
Cysticercus bovis	2	—	—	—	—	2
Lungs :						
Tuberculosis	2	52	—	—	1	55
Abscess	1	4	—	—	—	5
Pneumonia	—	—	3	—	42	45
Cysts	1	3	—	1	—	5
Stomachs						
Tuberculosis	—	5	—	—	—	5
Foreign Body	1	4	—	—	—	5
Livers :						
Tuberculosis	—	10	—	—	1	11
Cirrhosis	7	26	—	—	18	51
Hepatitis	1	2	5	1	21	30
Cavernous Angioma	—	45	—	—	—	45
Abscess	16	26	1	—	—	43
Melanosis	1	—	1	—	—	2
Echinococcus	—	3	—	—	—	3
Strongyli	—	—	—	2	—	2
Distomatosis	22	38	—	68	—	128
Fatty degeneration	—	3	—	—	—	3
Ascarides	—	—	—	—	39	39
Kidneys						
Nephritis	—	—	—	—	39	39
Spleen :						
Tuberculosis	—	3	—	—	—	3
Part Carcasses :						
Bruising	4	—	1	—	—	5
Tuberculosis	—	2	—	—	—	2
Fracture	1	—	—	—	3	4
Fever	—	3	—	—	3	6
Arthritis	—	—	—	—	23	23
Peritonitis	1	—	—	—	2	3
Abscess	1	—	—	1	10	12

Chicken.

During the year 20,919 chicken were slaughtered at the Chicken slaughterhouse and it was found necessary to condemn 314 as unfit for human consumption. The offals and other refuse from these premises have created no public problem.

Food Condemned other than at the Slaughterhouse

Meat		Bacon		Fish		Tinned Food	
lbs.	ozs.	lbs.	ozs.	lbs.	ozs.	lbs.	ozs.
1536	4	13	0	84	0	492	8

I am pleased to report that no seizures of diseased meat or other food has been necessary during the year.

Food Adulteration.

This section of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 is operated by the County Council, and I am much obliged to Mr. J. S. Preston, Chief Weights and Measures Inspector, for the following details of samples taken during the year ended 31st March, 1959, within this area—

1 Milk Samples.

The total number comprises 63 samples of milk, including 12 of Channel Islands Milk, all of which proved to be satisfactory.

2 Miscellaneous Samples.

Of the 10 samples of the various articles other than milk which were obtained, only one was the subject of an adverse report, as follows—

Lemon squash - deficient of fruit juice.

This article was certified to contain 15 per cent of fruit juice, whereas the Food Standards (Soft Drinks) Order requires a minimum of 25 per cent. The matter has been referred to the manufacturers but their observations are being awaited.

3 General.

With regard to articles other than milk so many of these are now pre-packed that, in general, it is not necessary for the sampling of such products to be duplicated in the various districts of the County, where satisfactory conditions of storage obtain. For this reason, the number of miscellaneous samples obtained in the area was, on this occasion, relatively small but many of the pre-packed articles sold were subjected to check in other districts.

During normal visits to traders attention was given to the provisions of the labelling of Food Order and the Pharmacy and Medicines Act, in so far as they relate to the marking of ingredients and other particulars which are required to be furnished with certain foods and medicines.

Milk Supplies.

Distribution of milk within the area is carried out by four Retailers in addition to one Producer/Retailer who sells Raw Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled) from shop premises.

Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949—

Dealers' (Pasteurisers) Licences to use the designation "Pasteurised"	1
Dealers' Licences to use the designation "Pasteurised"	4
Supplementary Licences to use the designation "Pasteurised"	1
Supplementary Licences to use the designation "Sterilised"	1

Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949—

Dealers' Licences to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested"	4
Supplementary Licences to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested"	1

Twenty four samples of milk were taken from Purveyors retailing in the area. The Public Analysts' results are as follows—

		Types of Milk		
		Pasteurised	Pasteurised T.T.	Total
Number of samples		12	12	24
Phosphatase	Satis.	12	12	24
Test	Unsatis.	—	—	—
Methylene	Satis.	12	12	24
Blue Test	Unsatis.	—	—	—

Ice Cream.

No ice cream is now manufactured in the town and there are 3 vans plying in the area. No action in respect of contraventions of the Heat Treatment Regulations has been necessary against any of the 34 registered retailers.

Food Premises.

Twelve of the food premises visited during the year were found to be in need of attention in addition to one Restaurant and two food vehicles, and appropriate action was taken under the Food Hygiene Regs. 1955.

Other Public Health Measures

Rodent Control and Pests.

The prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, as regards the Local Authority is carried out by one part-time operative.

161 complaints were received from private houses and were duly visited and treated. This involved the laying of 4276 Poison Baits. The poison used on these occasions is Warfarin, an anti-coagulant which, whilst being a most satisfactory poison for rodents is comparatively harmless to humans and domestic animals.

The Councils sewers continued to be treated in accordance with the Ministrys recommendations.

Other pests dealt with included infestations of flies and wasps.

Housing.

Re housing from sub-standard Houses—

The number of properties scheduled for action under the scheme for the Clearance of Sub-Standard Accommodation is now 67, and when re-housing is possible the future of these properties will be considered and the tenants offered alternative accommodation.

Action taken.

(a) Houses demolished.	
As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec. 17(1) Housing Act, 1957.	1
(b) Unfit houses closed.	
Under Sec. 16(1), Housing Act, 1957	17
(c) Unfit houses made fit.	
After informal action	8
After formal action (a) Public Health Acts	Nil
(b) Housing Act, 1957	1

Number of Inspections made.

Complaints received	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
Complaints investigated	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
Complaints justified	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Housing Defects—Public Health and Housing Acts							
Inspections and revisits	..	..	..	..	..	..	164
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Tents, vans and sheds	..	..	..	..	..	..	46
Factories (mechanical power)	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Factories (non-mechanical power)	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Fishmongers	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Other Food Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	70
Cafés, Restaurants, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Bacteriological Milk Samples taken	..	..	..	..	..	..	24

Piggeries (and other animals not domestic)	..	..	..	..	6
Miscellaneous visits	..	..	..	..	60
Disinfestation	..	..	..	..	24
Water Supply	..	..	..	..	3
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	7
Schools	..	..	..	..	8
Smoke Abatement	..	..	..	..	32
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	20
Food Vehicles	..	..	..	..	4
Interviews at office (Housing Management and Public Health)	..				1874

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Part I

(i) Inspections, etc.				
Number on Register	...	...	...	47
Inspections	...	...	...	12
Notices	...	...	...	—
(ii) Defects found—				
Want of Cleanliness	...	...	...	2
Sanitary Conveniences				
(a) Insufficient	...	...	...	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6
(c) Not separate for sexes	—

Part VIII

Outworkers	Nil
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Statutory Notices

Number of Statutory Notices issued for abatement or abolition of nuisances.

	Served	Complied with
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93	—	—
Housing Act, 1936, Section 9	1	2
Food and Drugs Act, 1938/1955	—	—
	1	2
	—	—

Legal Proceedings

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

Disinfections

Steam disinfection of bedding, clothing, etc., may still be carried out, by arrangement, at the Aldershot or Farnham Hospitals.

Number of premises disinfected after infectious disease in the Urban District.

...	1
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Housing Management.

20 Newly built one bedroom flats became available for letting during the year, and 9 of these were let to applicants on the waiting list, 3 of which were already living in sub-standard houses. The remaining 11 flats were filled by tenants already in Council property, and in all, 24 intermediate exchanges were made to release 6 three bedroom houses and 5 two bedroom dwellings for tenants of sub-standard houses. Casual vacancies occurring during the year numbered 16, comprising 6 aged persons dwellings, 6 three bedroom houses and 4 two bedroom flats. 6 of these vacancies were filled directly from the waiting list but the remaining 10 involved 16 intermediate exchanges resulting in 2 aged persons dwellings, 3 two bedroom and 5 three bedroom houses being allocated to the waiting list.

There were two exchanges into privately owned property and two to other Councils property.

Twenty new properties were provided by private enterprise during the year.

*C. Mills & Co., Printers,
Alton, Hampshire*